

Environmental Water Program
Update Number 2
12/19/03

The following is the second installment of the EWP Update. These updates are intended to be brief overviews of significant actions and notification of upcoming meetings and significant dates. For background information on the EWP, please visit our web site at <http://www.calfedewp.org/>. If you would like more detailed information or have questions, please contact Campbell Ingram at (916) 414-6727 or campbell_ingram@fws.gov.

Programmatic Update

The EWP Core Team had a tentative, as needed, meeting scheduled for December 15th. That meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting of the Core Team will be January 12th at 1:30 p.m., location to be determined. Notes from the Core Team meetings are available on the eRoom (https://hosted2.erom.com/eRoom/JandS/calfed/0_6876) or by request.

Priority Stream Update

Clear Creek

- A second Local Team meeting was held on November 19th to discuss biological objectives for increased flow on Clear Creek. Notes from the meeting are available on the eRoom (https://hosted2.erom.com/eRoom/JandS/calfed/0_938a) or by request.
- At the direction of the Local Team, an informal subgroup of fish biologists was formed and met on December 16th, to clarify and refine a draft statement of biological objectives. The subgroup consists of Mike Berry, Howard Brown, Matt Brown, Trisha Bratcher and Serge Birk, with assistance from EWP staff. The meeting resulted in a basis for objectives that will be refined into a draft statement for presentation to the Local Team at the next meeting.
- Next Local Team Meeting: January 27, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Western Shasta RCD. Purpose: to present the output from the biologist's meeting and come to agreement on objectives for a proposal.
- A meeting has been scheduled with the Central Valley Operators for February 19th to discuss the feasibility of flow manipulations in support of Local Team objectives.

Mill Creek

- No change since last update.

Deer Creek

- The Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Company Board has indicated that they are interested in participating in a local team to explore opportunities to provide increased flow through leasing back conserved water to the EWP. This very

- positive development means that both irrigation districts and the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy, which represents the majority of stakeholders on the creek, are interested in working together to address flow issues.
- The main focus of effort on Deer Creek will be securing water at critical times through conservation and potential expansion of the Groundwater Pilot Project. The EWP will provide a focal point for development of proposals to multiple programs, development of lease agreements for instream use of conserved water, and development of an adaptive management and monitoring program.
 - A first workgroup meeting has been scheduled for January 8th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Women's Center in Vina. Purpose: To develop objectives for increased flow.

Butte Creek

- A second Local Team meeting was held on November 19th to discuss biological objectives for increased flow on Butte Creek. There were over 40 participants at the meeting with three legislative offices represented. Notes from the meeting are available on the eRoom (https://hosted2.eroom.com/eRoom/JandS/calfed/0_935e) or by request.
- At the direction of the Local Team, an informal subgroup of fish biologists was formed and will meet on December 19th at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of Fish and Game office, 2545 Zanella Way, Ste. F. in Chico, to draft a statement of high-priority biological objectives for the Local Team. The group includes Paul Ward, Mike Tucker, William Johnson and Tracy McReynolds, with assistance from EWP staff, along with any interested local team members.
- Next Local Team Meeting: January 28, 1:00 p.m. at the Western Canal Water District Headquarters. Purpose: to present the output from the biologist's meeting and come to agreement on objectives for a proposal.

Tuolumne River

- No change since last update.

Battle Creek

- At the Adaptive Management Technical Team meeting on December 5th, the EWP team presented general comments for the revision of the AMP and a sediment monitoring plan for inclusion in the AMP. The group agreed that the plan should be revised per comments provided and additional comments expected from the ERP Science Board.
- The EWP team will work with members of the AMTT to develop initial responses to the Technical Review Panel's comments on the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. The group met December 15th to coordinate the development of an annotated outline that will serve as the basis for the revision of the AMP.
- A draft of the responses and outline will be available for internal review as of December 24th; an administrative draft of the revised AMP is expected by February 2, 2004.